

Parks in Germany

In Germany a country of parks as well? Indeed it is. There is the magnificent Englischer Garten in Munich, the blossoming gardens around the river Alster in Hamburg, the flower beds of the German Federal Garden Show in the capital, Bonn, situated on the Rhine, and over a thousand other parks including whole forests. Again and again the landscape thickens to a park. Where a park

transcends the borders of a town and takes over the woody hills both architects and gardeners sell with the wind. A good example is the Gruga Park in Essen, in the Ruhr area: It was laid out in 1929 and comprises waterworks, a botanic garden and exhibition halls. Or the Wilhelmshöhe mountain park at Kassel: In its midst is the residence built in 1788 which was temporarily

occupied by Napoleon III. Or Ludwigsburg on the Neckar: a baroque palace and park and a fairy-tale garden. The beauty on the island of Mainau on Lake Constance, on the other hand, is a different kind: here the Swiss Count Bernadotte looks after the gardens with Mediterranean vegetation. Why not make a tour of the parks of Germany?

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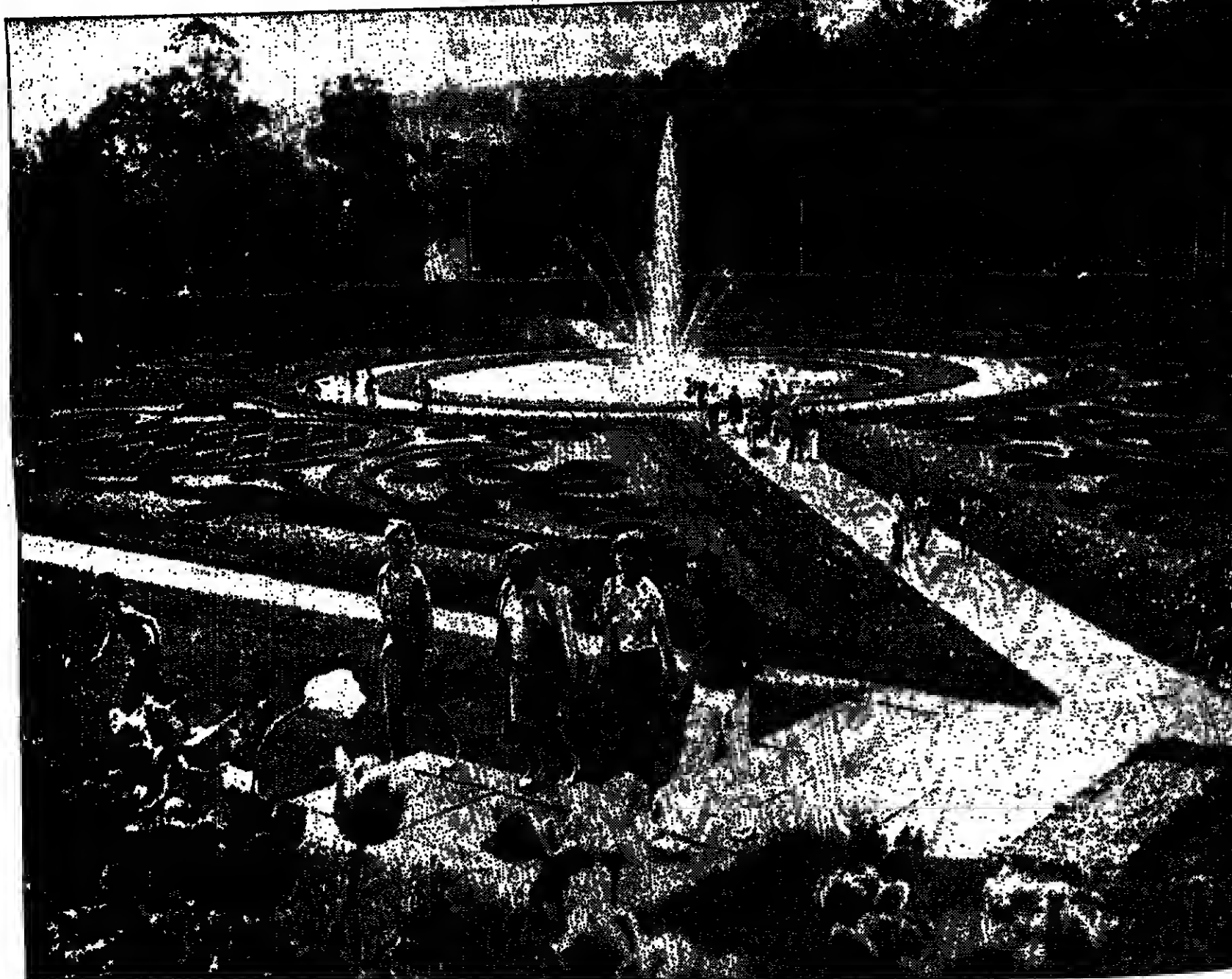
Non-aligned summit raps Russians

level-headed, down-to-earth approach has prevailed.
 In view of the doings of Idi Amin, Bokassa and Pol Pot or the Iraqi attack on Iran it is, moreover, growing increasingly hard to claim that the colonial era was to blame for everything.
 There naturally are all manner of political directions among the 96 member-countries of the non-aligned movement, but the pro-Soviet extremists amount to no more than a dozen, led by Cuba, Vietnam and South Yemen.
 The other side are led by Yugoslavia, Pakistan, Nigeria and the five Asian countries. Fidel Castro will chair the organisation until the next non-aligned summit, to be held in Baghdad in 1982.
 Then, if everything goes ahead according to plan, Iraq will take over the chair, with summits being held every three years and preceded, a year beforehand, by a gathering of Foreign Ministers.
 The permanent executive organ of the non-aligned movement is a 36-member coordination bureau consisting of 17 African, 12 Asian, five Latin American and two European countries.
 At the last summit, held in Havana in 1979, Fidel Castro tried in vain to transform the organisation from an independent movement to one allied with the Soviet Union.
 President Nyerere of Tanzania probably expressed the majority view at the time when he said he doubted whether the movement had steady friends or steady foes.
 If it were to join forces with a single power bloc, he said, it would soon cease to exist.
 But the extremists are persistent and unlikely to give up easily. This time too the Cuban delegate moved that the final communiqué include the comment that the Soviet Union was the natural friend and ally of the non-aligned world.
 Once again the Cubans were unsuccessful. The Foreign Minister of South Yemen, on the other hand, succeeded in smuggling into the draft a reference to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.
 The others, exhausted no doubt by all-night sessions, failed in time to notice that this left them committed to the designation introduced by the Babrak Karmal regime.
 The next morning, just before the communiqué was officially proclaimed, Pakistan's Agha Shahi spotted this significant change. He lodged a serious protest that was endorsed by other Islamic countries.
 The designation, they argued, was tantamount to recognition of the Babrak Karmal regime installed by the Soviet Union. Feverish activity ensued.
 Five hours later the offending words were struck from the communiqué. The moderates had won the day.
 Foreign Minister Dhanabalan of Singapore was critical too. "Some members of our movement," he said, "are trying to couple the non-aligned train to a Moscow-bound locomotive."
 Three Cubans left the conference hall and did not return until Mr Dhanabalan had finished his speech.
 The Iranians announced their intention of trying to get the Karmal regime expelled from the non-aligned movement and replaced by anti-Communist Islamic Afghan resistance fighters.
 The fourth non-aligned summit, held in Algiers in 1973, added to peace and decolonisation a further objective, that of establishing a New International Economic Order to bridge the gap between industrialised and developing countries.
 The non-aligned countries have since sought to surmount economic imbalances in the world. The Soviet response was to deny that East and West could be mentioned in one breath as rich countries.
 The Soviet Union had never been a



Genscher confers with Sadat

Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher stopped over in Cairo on his way home from Pakistan for talks with President Sadat, here seen welcoming him at the airport. (Photo: dpa)



Ludwigsburg
 Gruga-Park/Essen



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Nowadays, with all these countries afraid of forfeiting their independence and looking on aghast as the Soviet Union invades Afghanistan and Vietnam invades Cambodia, the newly elected Republican administration of President Reagan would do well to argue that those who are not against it are for it.
 But equidistance can only be maintained on the understanding that the West makes a serious attempt to negotiate a new economic order.
 Marion Griffin, Dänholm
 (Die Zeit, 20 February 1981)

Handwritten note in a box: "The end of the world"

INTRA-GERMAN AFFAIRS

East Berlin is still much less at home at the United Nations than Bonn

An Arab diplomat at the UN, representing a Persian Gulf state, rates the GDR delegation "the political echo of the Soviet Union, very dogmatic and the least relaxed of the socialist delegations."

Socially too he finds them too inflexible, practically non-existent, like the Mongolians. "But at least they have distinctive features, whereas the East Germans are Europeans no-one knows."

At the other end of the scale comments include: "They are hard-working, technologically successful yet not a superpower, and ideologically our brethren."

Views such as these, however, are voiced only by a relatively small group of East Berlin's silent states, countries such as Angola, Mozambique or Ethiopia.

Interestingly, it is the fact that they are German which makes them more attractive than the Soviet Union for a number of developing countries.

Their advisers are more popular than Moscow's, being rated more reliable and less overbearing.

The further distant from Europe a country is, the less important it feels differences between Germans to be, even though two German states have been represented for all to see for the past seven years at the United Nations.

1973, the year in which the GDR gained admission to the UN, is felt in East Berlin to have marked a turning-point in foreign affairs.

It was the turning-point to general international recognition. In 1969, say, the GDR still only had diplomatic ties with about 30 countries.

The change, according to the GDR's UN ambassador Peter Florin, was the most striking expression of the shift in the international balance of power in favour of socialism and peace.

He used these words in an interview with *Horizont*, a foreign affairs magazine published in East Berlin.

The importance the GDR attaches to its membership of the United Nations can be judged by its choice of diplomats at the UN in New York.

Herr Florin, 59, is Deputy Foreign Minister and a member of the central committee of the Socialist Unity Party (SED).

In his dealings with Big Brother Russia and the smaller brethren of Eastern Europe he is bound to be guided by his personal ties with the Soviet Union.

Wilhelm Florin, his father, was a KPD member of the Reichstag who in 1933 fled with his son Peter to Moscow.

Peter Florin read chemistry at the Mendeleev University and fought as a partisan in Byelorussia against the Germans in the Second World War.

This accounts for his Patriotic Order of Merit in gold and silver, for his perfect Russian and for his self-assurance, a feeling limited to East Germans who are secure in the knowledge that they have Soviet backing.

Many fellow-diplomats nonetheless rate him a little unsure of himself, although some say he has come to assume a more relaxed attitude as his English vocabulary has improved.

Yet Rüdiger von Wechmar, his opposite number from Bonn, has still not seriously considered striking up a first-



name relationship with him, even though first-name terms are customary at the UN.

Herr Florin is given to old-world courtesy towards the fair sex. Asked by a woman journalist how old he was (she said she imagined he must be about her age, in her 50s), he promptly replied:

"In that case I am, of course, a mere twenty-five."

At a reception to mark the anniversary of the establishment of the GDR a visitor from the Federal Republic of Germany said: "I cannot congratulate you on your national holiday but I wish you and my fellow-countrymen all the best."

He replied, without batting an eyelid: "The main thing is that you're here."

But he can also be less obliging, as Lothar Loewe and a West German TV camera crew learnt when trying to photograph the East German UN ambassador in the street.

Lothar Loewe, whose career has included expulsion from the GDR as West German TV correspondent in East Berlin, was told in no uncertain terms to beat it.

The GDR embassy cannot, by any stretch of the imagination, complain of not being a popular host in New York. Visitors from all continents and of all races attend its receptions, but especially blacks.

The East Bloc countries have shared

out their work at the UN, and the GDR's job is to look after relations with Africa. Herr Florin once triumphantly proclaimed an anti-imperialist alliance of socialist and non-aligned Afro-Asian states.

The claim was a little premature. UN votes in which African countries condemned the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the taking of US embassy hostages in Tehran by Iran belie it.

The East Bloc and the non-aligned countries do not always automatically vote along the same lines.

The GDR attaches great importance to its membership of the UN Security Council. This prestige role was somewhat offset when the 35th General Assembly chose Bonn's Rüdiger von Wechmar as its president.

As for the mark East Berlin has made on the Security Council, a North American delegate put the point succinctly when he said that:

"No-one waits with bated breath what the East German delegate has to say. It is invariably a carbon copy of the speech by Soviet ambassador Troyanovskii."

Maybe this impression is reinforced by the fact that at the UN Herr Florin speaks only in Russian, which may be an official United Nations language but even East Bloc diplomats normally address UN gatherings in either English or French.

Not even within the East Bloc is Russian a lingua franca.

Nowhere in the world are East Berlin's diplomatic representatives more closely confronted with their opposite

numbers from Bonn that at the General Assembly and in its various committees.

Delegates from the two German states are usually elbow-to-elbow in coincidence would have it, the gangway between the two of them.

But this proximity does not make links. Even on specific issues the GDR delegates are acknowledged as expert, punctual and disciplined.

Both parts of Germany have, in very little coalition of their views, both are highly advanced technologically.

Yet although the two may agree they do not often speak either. One such occasion occurred at the full session of the General Assembly, however.

The Bonn Foreign Minister goes on record as saying that the government's aim is "to arrive at peace in Europe in which the German people are able, in free self-determination, to regain their unity."

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HOME AFFAIRS

Chancellor Schmidt's policy decisions sorely try Social Democrats' patience

It has become a standard formula in official polemics these days to commend Helmut Schmidt should be energetic, more of a fighter.

It is not the old Helmut Schmidt, so argument runs, but a man who talks which the two German states might reasonably be expected to be identical, as on the Law of the Sea.

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The link between the party and the Chancellor had grown thin, the left of the party was fraying, the party's capacity to govern was under threat and, of course, the FDP did too well in the coalition negotiations. All these complaints are not new.

What is remarkable is not so much that these criticisms have been frequently made in recent years but that the party's objections to government policy on major issues was so dosed that the government majority in parliament remained intact.

Why should things be different now? Have not most left-wingers in the party said that they had no intention and no mandate to end Helmut Schmidt's Chancellorship?

The probability of a sufficient number of SPD MPs voting against the Chancellor in an important vote is virtually nil. Social Democrats do not throw away power as easily as that.

However, the number of issues on which party and government disagree strongly has increased. The Nato modernisation decision, atomic energy, arms exports, relations with the new US administration and in this context also relations with El Salvador — this division is visible everywhere.

Discussion of these problems is

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Genscher included in his General Assembly address a mention of the inhuman order to East German border guards to shoot to kill at would-be refugees.

The speech by East Berlin's Oskar Fischer had to be rewritten at the last minute to include a note of protest about Herr Genscher's claim.

There has also been an intra-German clash on the disarmament committee. Gerhard Pfeiffer, heading the Bonn delegation, called the increase in minimum compulsory exchange requirements for visitors to East Berlin and the GDR "a serious setback to détente."

The reply by GDR delegate Walter Kruttsch was couched in stronger terms. This was, he said, a bare-faced bid to interfere in the domestic affairs of his country.

It had shown that certain people still cherished chauvinistic ideas and were unable to accept the continued existence of the German Democratic Republic.

All told, however, one might gain the impression there was an unwritten agreement not to tread too heavily on each other's toes.

"Let us not point an accusing finger at the Wall," as a Bonn diplomat put it, "they allow us to carry on doing business with South Africa."

But this is not strictly true. Whenever America, Britain, France and West Germany are pilloried for maintaining economic ties with South Africa the GDR is invariably among the two-thirds majority in support of condemnation.

The same is true of votes on Israel. GDR delegates are particularly virulent in their attacks on Israel, so much so that

Israel's UN ambassador Joseph Tekoa has once felt obliged to protest.

How did East Berlin propose, he wondered, to come to terms with its share of responsibility for the mass murder of Jews during the Third Reich?

The question has yet to be answered. Social engagements between UN diplomats from the two German states depend on status, personality and the current political situation.

Lunch invitations have been out ever since the GDR increased its tourist exchange requirement, since Erich Honecker made his Gera speech and, in particular, since Soviet troops have threatened Poland.

Before the latest freeze regular invitations from ambassador to ambassador were exchanged, with the East Germans calling at Bonn's embassy in 65th Street and the West Germans tucking in to East German food and drink at Herr Florin's country house.

Discussions of any depth on specific issues seldom occur. Bonn diplomats say their GDR counterparts feel slightly unsure of themselves, are irritated and are never relaxed enough to be unofficial. Never would East Berlin's men dream of saying confidentially that they do not personally agree with some specific aspect of their government's policy.

So the talk centres on New York, the arts, the weather and strictly superficial, non-committal issues. Western Europeans and Americans at the UN are not unduly keen on the East Germans. They have a reputation for being unbending and boring.

Germans, as a whole may lack a sense of humour, but in this respect East Ber-

scribed the government headquarters as a place of undisturbed and relatively frictionless efficiency.

There are also rumours that the Chancellor when making his decisions has less the opinion of the party than the judgement of history in mind.

At any rate, the time when Chancellor and party could refer to party resolutions which allowed both to keep face is running out.

It is running out because specific decisions now have to be made. In the dispute about Brokdorf nuclear power station the government has already made up its mind, a fact the significance of which the public does not appear to have grasped.

Compared with what has happened here, the Bonn government making common cause with the Schleswig-Holstein CDU against the local and the Hamburg SPD, the much-discussed Hansen case pales into insignificance.

And even the dispute with the Left in the SPD is of little consequence compared with the conflict with the North German SPD which the Chancellor is prepared to risk.

No other government head has ever tried his party's patience so severely.

A political pattern is emerging here which could reappear in the case of other problems, for example when the nuclear modernisation decision has to be implemented.

This, too, seems to be an area where Chancellor Schmidt is unlikely to be able to make real concessions to party wishes. On other questions such as arms exports compromises could more easily be reached.

On the whole it remains valid that the contradictions between government policies and the party are becoming

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lin's men take some beating, as a Bonn delegate noted when he had to leave a session of the human rights committee early because of another appointment.

It's all yours, he told the GDR delegate. You can represent all Germany for a while. East Berlin's man, a lady professor and a GDR state secretary, was not amused.

She replied to this harmless witticism with a short but serious discourse on sovereignty.

Many of the GDR's activities go on behind closed doors in special committees the Federal Republic steers clear of.

They include the Namibia committee, the anti-apartheid committee, the committee for the inalienable rights of the Palestinians and the like.

On these committees the GDR may exert a certain influence on the non-aligned states but its influence on the United Nations as a whole is described by a high-ranking diplomat as follows:

"They are a member-country like any other. Their clientele is limited. They have few friends in Asia and only the typical East Bloc supporters in Africa or the Caribbean."

"But in their regional group they play a role by virtue of their relative economic power."

Unlike the Federal Republic of Germany, which steered a convention on hostage-taking through the UN, the GDR has yet to show any initiative of its own at the United Nations.

So whenever a diplomat refers just to Germany he can be taken to mean not the GDR but the Federal Republic of Germany.

Gitta Bauer/SAD

(Ole Welt, 10 February 1981)

Reunification earns GDR leader applause in Gera speech

East German leader Erich Honecker is taking every possible opportunity to underline his willingness to talk to Bonn.

But there are two serious obstacles to talks which might have any hope of producing results: instability in Poland and relations between the two superpowers.

As soon as these obstacles have been removed the intra-German dialogue should be able to begin again.

This was not the most remarkable aspect of Honecker's Gera speech. Rather it was his thoughts on the reunification of Germany, a subject long taboo in the GDR.

The last one heard was that reunification was out of the question. Only Herr Honecker himself could have raised the question again.

He has not established continuity, however. He utters rejected the legal position that the Third Reich still existed, describing it as revanchist.

He firmly scotched reunification hopes harboured in the West. Not until socialism had been established in West



Germany could the question of reunification be reopened.

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WAR CRIMES

Blockbuster concentration camp trial in Düsseldorf

Majdanek concentration camp, the venue of war crimes that have been the subject of proceedings at a Düsseldorf court for more than five years, was many things to many men.

It was, for instance, a row of stables where thousands of Jewish prisoners slept on straw in summer and vegetated under paper bags in winter if they were lucky.

It was also a courtyard where SS men had labour gangs assemble, number off and be detailed for duties every morning and evening beneath the gallows.

It was a spot known as the rose garden where prisoners were selected and detailed for life or death. And crematoriums and gas chambers and barbed wire and high-voltage lines and death blocks and invalid blocks.

It was a special model hospital laid out for inspection by the International Red Cross and any number of mass graves hidden away in the forests a few miles distant.

Majdanek concentration camp was on the northern outskirts of Lublin, Poland, and between December 1941 and spring 1944 it cost more than 250,000 people their lives.

Most were victims of organised mass murder, being killed by carbon monoxide poisoning or Zyklon B, a mixture of cyanide and hydrogen, in what were said to be baths.

Epidemics, hunger and thirst were the death of many more, but a substantial number were beaten to death, hanged, drowned and shot in frightful episodes of inhuman excess by SS guards.

After Düsseldorf court proceedings lasting five years two months public prosecutors Weber and Amborg have begun to summarise the evidence heard more than 35 years after the event.

The seven men and two women in the dock have already been the subject of the lengthiest criminal trial ever heard in the annals of the German judiciary, but there is more to come.

The prosecution's job will be to prove that the remaining accused, members of a camp staff at times totalling 1,500, were individually guilty of murder or collectively responsible for organised mass murder.

More than 300 witnesses have been heard, including about 200 former prisoners, most of whom now live either in Israel or in North America or in Poland.

The prosecution's case is stated soberly, unimpassionately, yet definitely. The prosecution counsel begin by outlining the historical background against which it all came to pass.

Then they go into the life stories of the accused, most of whom came to Majdanek voluntarily, before dealing with innocence and guilt.

The legal summaries and sentences called for have yet to come, but the public gallery is full for the first time in months.

A number of the accused try to escape the prying lenses of Press photographers' cameras by wrapping lowly robes over their heads.

The court even holds a dummy session for the benefit of the TV cameras. But then the public prosecutors get back to their summaries.

The camp itself, it seems to have been established beyond reasonable

doubt, was not envisaged by Himmler, the SS Reichsführer, as an extermination camp.

He planned it as a small industrial outpost of his death's head organisation. It was to be a labour camp in which forced labour would in many cases be synonymous with death because, with mass deportations, reinforcements were readily available.

But the original project fell apart at the seams as soon as construction work began in autumn 1941. Lunatic ambition and reality never saw eye to eye.

The project was disguised as a POW camp for Russian prisoners, but this camouflage proved useless when nearly all the Russians died of spotted fever in an epidemic.

So it was left to Polish civilians and Jewish prisoners to finish the construction work. Many died initially of exhaustion and maltreatment, so the SS began building crematoriums to dispose of their corpses.

First there were two crematoriums, then five working nonstop. Later, when mass murder became the rule, the SS dug mass graves in the surrounding forests.

From the spring of 1942 gas chambers were built and it was decided to kill most deportees the moment they arrived. The number of gas chambers was gradually increased to six.

Three hundred people could be killed in each operation at each gas chamber, and the pace was maintained until spring 1944 when the Red Army advanced.

The last labour gangs were then shot and the camp was abandoned. Some of



Hildegard Lachert (Photo: dpa)

the SS staff were transferred to Auschwitz, others to Buchenwald.

Himmler seems to have seconded others to Yugoslavia to help fight Tito's partisans and, presumably, die in action. The SS does not appear to have been keen on survivors of concentration camp service.

Survivors have told the court heart-rending tales of day-to-day camp life. Majdanek was a death camp, little more than an abattoir.

Thousands of prisoners died in epidemics. So did a number of SS staff. SS courts sentenced to death camp commanders who embezzled prisoners' cash and gold. Beating up prisoners and using the lash were the order of the day.

The general brutalisation that soon came to the fore as a result of indescribable sanitary conditions seems to have disgusted some of the staff.

A number applied more than once for a transfer to active service on the front, so keen were they to get out. But, as Heinz Villain, a former SS NCO now in the dock, put it: "It was impossible to get out of Lublin."

The SS commanding officers took good care to ensure that staff stayed put. The camp was run on strict hierarchical lines, with deputy commanders and a separate political unit run by the Gestapo.

There were Führers of various ranks among the staff and a similar hierarchy among the trusted inmates.

Much of what is known about Majdanek is known from documents that have survived, and the SS set great store by keeping exact records.

Thanks to files containing ration coupons, railway freight papers, work schedules and details of transfers and promotions the dates of arrival and extermination of many a trainload can be established.

Even 35 years after the event the memories of former inmates can thus be checked for accuracy. In most cases, and certainly on key facts, they have proved surprisingly accurate, the prosecution says.

Discrepancies and contradictions arise when it comes to day-to-day life in camp, but many witnesses have submitted corroborative testimony on specific excesses, especially those on women and children dubbed Thanksgiving.

The prosecution does not propose to rely in any way on the evidence given by witnesses who suffered serious physical or mental damage at Majdanek.

But that still leaves plenty who can attribute specific camp excesses to specific men and women in the dock, which is not to understate the grave risk of mistaken identity.

A number of survivors have memories of one particularly vicious SS man with a Roman nose. They have been tempted to identify people in the dock as this particular offender.

The prosecution knows for a fact that he died many years ago. So these witnesses have found that their evidence does not stand up too well in court.

The men and women in the dock are, for the most part, old-age pensioners. They either stoop or stay erect with the aid of walking-sticks.

Many have spent years in US, Polish or Soviet camps. They began their working lives in the Weimar Republic in jobs for which there was no future as the Depression descended on the country.

They were farm workers, metalworkers, carpenters, forestry workers and the like. Some, such as the accused Hackmann, Laurich, Groffmann and Strippel, volunteered early for service in the SS.

As mass unemployment took its toll they reckoned board, lodging and a small wage, a smart uniform and the promise of civil service jobs after demobilisation were well worthwhile.

None of the accused are said to have been unduly committed politically. Their basic outlook is probably best described as: order is necessary, everyone has a job to do and Hitler will see to it that order is restored.

Most served as concentration camp guards at Buchenwald, Dachau, Flossenbürg and Mauthausen in the mid-30s.

They all say they gradually came to the conclusion that what they had to do was no longer in order, but they had no choice but to accept the inevitable as there was no way out.

All claim to have volunteered on



Hermine Ryan

more than one occasion for service. They may be telling the truth, but no-one now can tell.

They are certainly keen to make sense out of what has been more than 35 years of confusion. In the dock, but in no way the camp records make short of these bids to whitewash themselves.

A number of the accused were guilty of serious offences by the camp records, for instance, in Herr Petrick, for instance, is known to have been imprisoned and later labour camp by the SS for repeated bezzlement and fraud.

Like crooked camp commander Koch and Florstedt he has pocketed his victims' cash and gold.

Many witnesses agree that the rich was what at Majdanek was an angel of death. He whipped them till he blinded them, shouting personally with his service pistol they reached the crematoriums having tortured them to the death.

Herr Heckmann, now virtually a man as he sits in his chair in the dock, is said by witnesses to have a smart, forward SS officer who was a close thug.

He disagrees, putting forward a argument that is characteristic of and of conditions at Majdanek. He never thrashed anyone personally only because of the risk of infection.

One or two of the accused, on the other hand, are remembered by inmates as having tried not to be the mark.

They were invariably loud-mouthed in their vilification of filthy Polish Jews but took good care not to harm them personally.

Evidence along these lines has been noted in favour of the accused Strippel. Public prosecutors, however, says no cases of personal malice committed by them have come to light. Their activities at Majdanek, very much in the dark and likely to be that way, which should prove to the benefit. There is no way in which can be legally obliged to, defence against themselves.

Even after more than five years hearing evidence the Düsseldorf court cannot claim to have unearthed truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth about Majdanek.

Many new facts have come to light about the camp, but the means to German criminal law cannot hope to reveal the full extent of things and misery there.

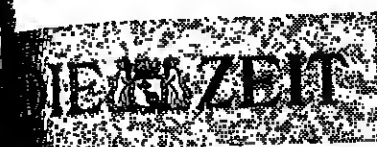
"Majdanek," a witness who now lives in the United States said, "was a hell every day." Lothar Beumann, Frankfurt, who was in the camp, said: "It was a hell every day."

For Deutsche Presse, 15 February 1981

All claim to have volunteered on

PEOPLE

No-nonsense commentator is public's favourite



Peter Scholl-Latour

Scholl-Latour, roving correspondent of ZDF, the Second channel of West German TV, was on his rare visits to the Bonn studios to cut his latest film on Sinkiang. He was in the country and the hostesses had just flown out of he was in demand as a TV commentator on these latest events.

Other journalists last year reported he was calmly and knowledgeably in Frankfurt to the accompaniment of his rare visits to the Bonn studios to cut his latest film on Sinkiang. He was in the country and the hostesses had just flown out of he was in demand as a TV commentator on these latest events.

He recommends curiosity as a virtue to his younger colleagues. But they, of course, just puff out their cheeks and shout: cliché.

Pontification, conformism and political good behaviour, even mere sloganeering, are qualities which can get West German journalists way up the career ladder these days.

But it is journalism in the Peter Scholl-Latour mould who win the respect of the viewers. Scholl-Latour is a star, without glamour or vanity but with a definite sense of his own worth.

He is a man who certainly has his faults and weaknesses but nonetheless an exceptional character. He is the precise opposite of the typical West German public corporation journalist.

If there were more of his kind around, there would be some hope that the system could reform itself and escape the clutches of small-time party politicians.

Peter Scholl-Latour was himself a member of the hierarchy for a short time. But as a television director of WDR in Cologne he never forgot his profession.

Whenever his radio colleagues needed his knowledge and expertise, he found ways of escaping from the routine of meetings and committee sessions.

Take a typical example. He had been asked for a commentary on the situation in Vietnam. He came into the studio on the dot.

The head of the studio turned pale. Scholl-Latour had got no manuscript with him. In the soundproof cabin he ran his fingers through his hair, stared at the microphone and said run the tape.

It was no wonder that even Peter Scholl-Latour was not allowed to criticise the Americans in Vietnam in 1968. He was allowed to predict that they could win the war.

My talk with Peter Scholl-Latour took place in his home, during which he tried his best to keep his commentary out on me. He spoke quietly and fast, in the familiar, inimitable tone he uses on television as he looks straight into the camera without batting an eyelid.

What he says is precise, brief and un-Jewish swine but took good care not to harm them personally. He is a great lover of things French, provided they are compatible with Prussian virtues.

However, his constant historical knowledge does intimidate his audience. His information on the Sunnites and the Shi'ites throughout the ages, of cults and dervishes, is above that of their heads.

Now, indeed, he has gone on to the communist resistance and its origins and aims. It is all very confusing.

Peter Scholl-Latour is no mere man obsessed with history. He does waste time on anecdotes, always to the point. Leading TV commentators should take a leaf or two from his book.

He would best them about the ears of their hollow phrases, politely but firmly. In short, Peter Scholl-Latour is one of the best. He is an educated, curious and active individual with a capacity for putting his thoughts, observations and associations into the precise form of critical and reflective journalism.

For Deutsche Presse, 15 February 1981

He had four minutes thirty seconds for the commentary, no more, no less. After exactly four minutes and thirty seconds he had completed his final sentence, off-the-cuff, without hesitation or error.

The studio manager gulped down a gin. Scholl-Latour politely took his leave and rushed off to the next appointment. The cutter did not have to change a thing on his tape.

Scholl-Latour stood the desk job for two years. Two years, in his own words in which he had a "whale of a time" and was also involved in entertainment and quiz programmes.

He mentions the names of theatre director Peter Zadek and film director Volker Schlöndorff. We got them on to our channel, he says, cherishing the memory.

He says he could have stayed on in the job for a few more years, "but I was 47 and I wanted to get out and start again."

Scholl-Latour had wanted to get out into the wide world even since his childhood, when he remembered following the course of the Sino-Japanese war on the map.

In 1948 *Le Monde* printed his first articles, reports on the Soviet zone of Germany.

Since then, he has been fascinated by war and hot spots. Younger readers of his book on Vietnam will probably be put off in places by the nostalgic *ancien de l'Indochine* tone.

In 1945, Peter Scholl-Latour sailed to Indo-China for the first time, as a French soldier, "out of curiosity and love of adventure." Even today, he does not care to speak further.

In his bestseller *Death in the Paddy Field - 30 Years of War in Indo-China*, Scholl-Latour wrote about the young French officers who were shipped to Indo-China aboard the Royal Navy troop carrier *Andus*.

They were longing for adventure and strong emotions. Probably very few of them had read Jean-Paul Sartre, but in their way they were existentialists in uniform.

"They were seeking the roads to freedom, *les chemins de la liberté*, in a tropical, war-ridden Saint-Germain des Prés of their imagination. At last, a corner of



Peter Scholl-Latour

the earth which is not paved," wrote one of them in his diary.

Perhaps these officers' motives were not very different from Scholl-Latour's own.

Vietnam also affected Scholl-Latour's ethos as a journalist. He once wrote: "Vietnam was a total television war: systematic pro-Americanism was followed by systematic anti-Americanism."

What sometimes seemed to be bold reports in fact often turned out to be subtle forms of conformism. And so he prefaced his book with the honest remark that it was the account of a personal experience.

"In thirty years of Indo-China I found that subjective reporting was often the most honest method of getting close to reality or, if one does not shrink from the word, the truth."

Winfried Scharlau, who himself was for many years a South-East Asia correspondent, wrote in a *Die Zeit* review: "The title of these war memoirs could aptly be changed to Indo-China *mon amour*."

He was right. If a man as soberly and inconspicuously dressed as Scholl-Latour wears a silver bracelet, this can only be a tribute to Indochina: the unusual ornament is a present from the Meos, a Vietnamese mountain tribe, to the reporter who loved and respected them.

Margrit Gerste
(Die Zeit, 6 February 1981)

Publishing giant supremo, 60, quits as managing director

Reinhard Mohn, 60, board chairman of Bertelsmann AG, the second largest media concern in the world after CBS, is retiring as managing director to chair the supervisory board.

His company, Bertelsmann, doubles its turnover every four years. At the moment turnover stands at DM5bn, of which half is earned abroad. And turnover minus costs equals profits.

Mohn told *Welt am Sonntag* that "we can always think of ways of using our money."

He says that his best idea was the total delegation of leadership and of responsibility.

The group consists of 100 profit centres, all run by "small entrepreneurs as in the 19th century," and all wanting to make just a bit more profit, because it is they who benefit from it most.

Bertelsmann spends about DM20m per annum on shares for its staff.



Reinhard Mohn

Mohn says: "I learnt to delegate in the 50s when we doubled turnover every year. Anyone who tries to run things centrally in such a situation is going to go bust."

During the interview, he drank a glass of tomato juice, kept his blazer dashingly open and occasionally spoke with a North Rhine-Westphalian accent.

Asked about himself, he said: "I am completely uninteresting. Write something nice about Bertelsmann." About Bertelsmann: "I see no problems for the future. There are no limits to its growth potential."

About why he is moving upstairs at such a comparatively early age: "Many companies suffer because one man stays at the top too long and there is no one to replace him."

About the new generation of managers: "University graduates ought to learn to talk first. What they get pumped into them is a load of hooey."

Would you describe your concept as brilliant? "No, it's just common sense and fairness."

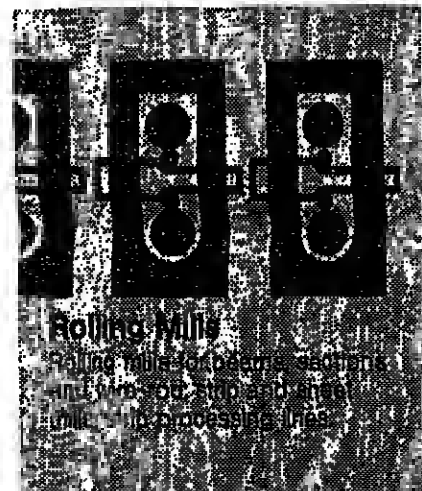
(Welt am Sonntag, 15 February 1981)

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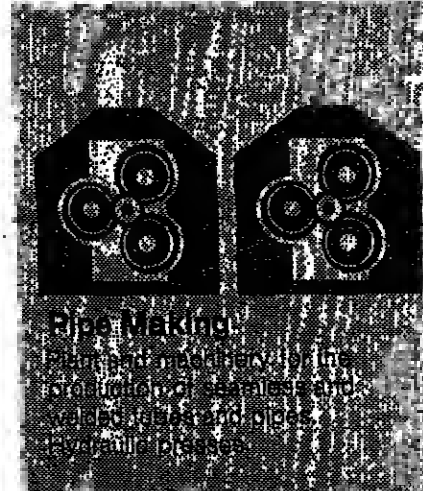
Machinery, Plants and Systems



Metallurgical Plant
Integrated plant, blast fur-
naces, steel mills, continuous
casters, electrometallurgical
plant.



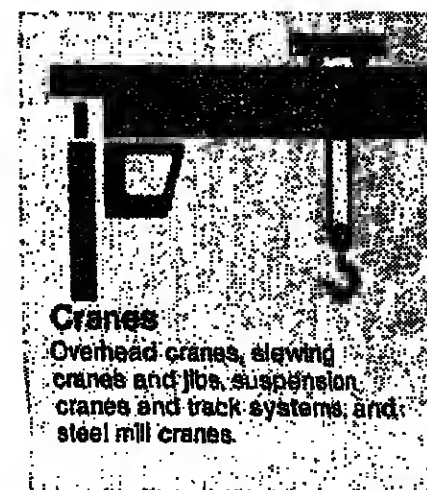
Rolling Mill
Rolling mills for processing
steel and other metals, with
continuous casting and rolling
plants.



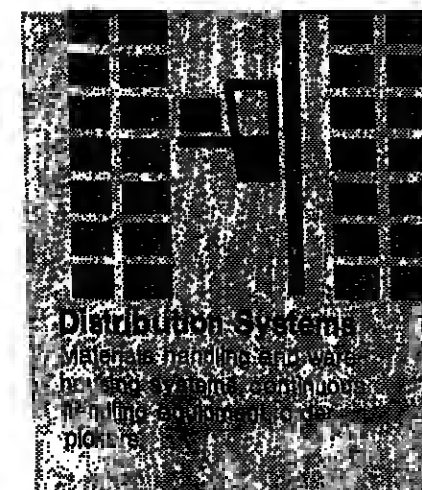
Pipe Making
Machine for manufacturing
pipes of various diameters and
materials.



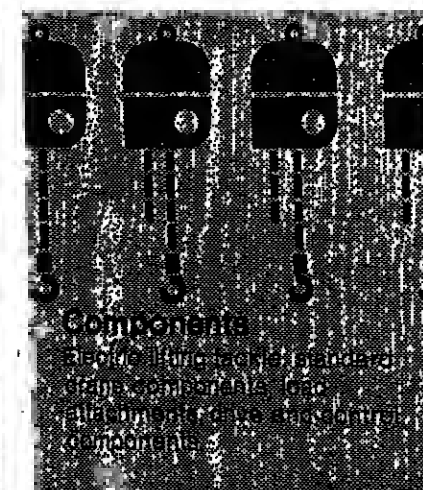
Compressors
Centrifugal compressors for
gas and air, with various
models and capacities.



Cranes
Overhead cranes, electric
cranes and jibs, suspension
cranes and track systems, and
steel mill cranes.



Distribution Systems
Material handling and
distribution systems, including
conveyors, elevators, and
storage systems.



Components
Various mechanical components,
including valves, fittings, and
flanges.



Bulk Handling
Bucket wheel excavators,
reclaimers and belt conveyor
systems, container handling
systems.



Mining Equipment
Mining and material handling
equipment, including conveyors,
loaders, and crushers.



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Construction equipment, including
piling rigs, cranes, and
excavators.



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ENVIRONMENT

Hydrocarbon pellets from Swiss glacier are from 1637 comet, scientists claim

Any black glass balls of a substance embedded in the ice of the Jungfrau glacier in the Bernese Oberland may be dust from a 1637 comet, Cologne scientists say.

The beads or pellets were discovered by a team of research scientists from the department of nuclear chemistry at Cologne University headed by Professor W. Korsch.

About 700kg of glacial ice were excavated from depths of between 40 and 50 metres and melted down to reveal about 190 pellets between 0.03 and 0.15mm in diameter.

They consist of carbene, a newly discovered hydrocarbon differing entirely from diamonds and graphite, its nearest counterparts.

Carbene pellets would seem to be widespread in outer space; on earth they are a completely new message from the cosmos.

Similar microspherules, likewise once molten and turned solid as pellets, have long been known to exist and doubtless exist everywhere on earth.

But they have only been identified where they cannot get lost in the cosmic bubble of sand and coarse clay, and that is in the sea-bed and ocean-floor clays in which they have been found to be deposited.

There the coarser-grained varieties of continental rock dust have yet to reach such isolated locations.

Microspherules, as the remainder of these heavenly bodies had previously been found in a mixture of nickel and iron and classified as traces of ferrous meteorites.

Glass carbene pellets of this new hydrocarbon are something new and rated by scientists as an exciting discovery.

The Bonn government does not seem



A decade or so ago El Gorey, a Heidelberg professor, discovered in the Nördlinger Ries area of South Germany, in the crater formed when an enormous meteorite crash-landed millions of years ago, grains of a new hydrocarbon.

Its atomic make-up differed entirely from that of graphite or diamonds. He named it carbene after a US mineralogist. It had probably taken shape in the heat and high-pressure zone of the meteorite's shock wave on impact.

Various other unusual hydrocarbons similar to carbene have since come to light, some in a number of meteorites. They are now known as carbenes.

They cannot be ascribed to any specific crystalline form yet they do not consist of amorphous hydrocarbon. They are probably layers of orderly chains of hydrocarbon sandwiched between layers of amorphous hydrocarbon.

About a dozen different carbenes have so far been found, the latest in terrestrial rock strata.

But some of the cosmic dust suspended between the planets and the fixed stars probably consists of carbenes, as does the hydrocarbon in appropriate meteorites.

In the evolution of cosmic matter carbenes may well have played a major role, and that means on the way to the evolution of life as we know it.

In searching for space dust in the ice of the Jungfrau glacier the Cologne scientists were able, with financial backing from the Swiss, to excavate ice samples from depths of nearly 50 metres.

At this depth the glacial ice is between 300 and 400 years old and definitely not polluted with industrial dust.

Atmospheric dust of other kinds is rare at Alpine altitudes too, so the scientists were hoping any dust they found in the ice they melted must prove to be cosmic in origin.

They were greatly surprised to find that their pellets consisted of carbene from outer space (or mostly of carbene, at any rate).

But the evidence that their particles were from outer space was mineralogical as well as circumstantial. The pellets

were found to contain minute quantities of nitrogen, for instance.

Spectrographical analysis has shown that hydrocarbon particles in meteorites contain nitrogen in quantities of this kind.

The pellets also contained polycyanocetylenes, chemical compounds likewise previously known to be contained in space dust and meteorites.

Carbene pellets are particularly frequent in this particular stratum of glacial ice. Cosmic dust should, as a rule, contain only a low count of carbene microspherules.

To judge by their appearance and chemical composition they may have come from meteorites the hydrocarbon outer skins of which were peeled off as they travelled through the upper atmosphere, then melting into dust particles.

Yet even if this hypothesis is accepted the numbers in which they occur are still unusual. They are more likely to have been the mineral components of a comet containing a sediment of cosmic dust in its icy head.

In 1637 a very large comet traversed the solar system passing close to the earth. Frequent illustrations of it are to be found in the scientific literature of the time.

Thus the many carbene particles in glacial ice of the Jungfrau glacier dating back to the 17th century are more than likely to have been parts of the 1637 comet and not just conventional cosmic dust.

The Cologne chemists hope to be even surer of their facts before long, having taken part in the West German Antarctic expedition to probe glacial ice near the South Pole.

The Antarctic has already revealed any number of meteorites, yielding in some places the richest meteorite finds ever made. It is sure to prove a repository of cosmic dust too.

The expedition is to melt three and a half tons of ice in its quest for cosmic pellets. It is sure to provide data as to the standard frequency of carbene pellets.

It may also reveal above-average frequency at certain points in time that coincide with meteorites and comets historically observed and recorded.

Harald Steinert
(Der Tagespiegel, 14 February 1981)

Chancellor Schmidt's policy decisions

Continued from page 3
more evident on an increasingly broad front.

But does this pose a danger to the government? The formal answer is that the SPD parliamentary party has no legislative function in most controversial issues.

Cynics might even argue that SPD criticism does not limit the government's capacity to act, but only the government's image and the image of Social Democracy.

However, this could be enough to reduce the party's electoral chances in the Linder drastically. Berlin will be the first test here.

The Bonn government does not seem

to be in much danger at the moment, least of all from the Opposition; the CDU/CSU plays hardly any part in the coalition's internal counsels.

But apart from formal and cynical considerations, the majority of critical Social Democrats are frightened of the thought of returning to the Opposition after a possible defeat of the Chancellor.

Certainly, this thought alarms them more than the prospect of tolerating the Chancellor's policies, which they can at least comment on and to a certain extent influence.

It is not the Chancellor's capacity for suffering which is being tested at the moment; it is the SPD's. Rolf Zundel
(Die Zeit, 19 February 1981)

Tropical forest warning

Destruction of the tropical rain forest continues unabated at an estimated 20 hectares, or 50 acres, a minute, says Hamburg forestry specialist Eberhard F. Brünning.

It is, he claims, one of the cardinal sins against the environment and is sure to have repercussions so devastating and widespread that their full extent cannot even be guessed at.

In a single day enough jungle is felled to lay bare an area the size of Schleswig-Holstein, the West German state extending from Hamburg to the Danish border.

"Year by year," he said when the Hamburg University research report was published, "10m to 20m hectares of tropical jungle are destroyed."

"The long-term consequences for the supply of both raw materials and food will be catastrophic. The climate repercussions will be felt all over the world."

"The destruction of tropical forests is arguably the most dangerous overall en-



vironmental change of the times, even more dangerous than desertification and pollution."

The climate repercussions were already perceptible, he said. Less solar energy was being absorbed and converted. The evaporation and atmospheric water cycle in the rain forest zones were on the decline.

Erosion and water outflow were on the increase. The air was growing drier and cooler. Less water and heat were being transported to higher latitudes.

Billions of tons of carbon dioxide were being released into the atmosphere. Destruction of the tropical rain forests also meant the demise of a unique ecosystem and an extraordinary variety of species.

The jungle covered an area of roughly 100 million square kilometres, or 40 million square miles, or roughly a third of the earth's living biomass.

By accounting for a third of the world's flora and fauna the tropical rain forests constituted an immense reservoir of natural riches.

If felling of the jungle, followed by erosion as hitherto, were to continue millions of plant and animal species would die out over the next century, US experts had forecast.

By the turn of the century, at least half a million species could be expected to grow extinct; the number could even reach a million over the next 20 years.

This, again, would amount to a third of the world's living species. What was more, by the end of the century the world's cultivable land would be halved, with the trend continuing.

In less than 20 years a billion hectares of land would have been transformed into barren acreage.

"The sum total of disadvantages and damage caused by progressive destruction of tropical forests and landscape is so enormous as to constitute a serious threat to the ecological and economic foundations of mankind as a whole," Professor Brünning said.

Klaus Dalibon/dpa
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 13 February 1981)

LITERATURE

Enlightenment giant and first career writer

Heine once said that no German could mention Lessing without feeling moved. Yet the nation that claims him as a literary classic is strangely alienated from him.

To call Lessing to mind in this, the bicentenary year of his death, is inevitably to recall what, even now, is bewildering and dismaying about Germany's greatest son of the Enlightenment.

He advocated a mature humanity that subsequent history in general, and German history in particular, has since belied.

His oeuvre was very much that of a unique point in time, and one may well wonder whether it can be fully understood or appreciated nowadays.

For the most part he confined himself to the 18th century's favourite genres, the pamphlet, the review, the letter, the critical fragment and the like.

What he had to say is likewise linked to the 18th century's intellectual stock-in-trade, but it would be grossly unfair to dismiss it as the mere stuff of academic learning nowadays.

Even now, 200 years later, it testifies in a breathtaking manner to Lessing's polemical, incorruptible intellect.

His was a mind preoccupied with but a single topic, humanity, and he pursued it singlemindedly with passion and aggression.

He does not really seem to fill the bill as a poet. He lacks the poet's aura. He is not interested in nature and its beauty. Lyrical introversion is not his forte either.

Besides, his life was not unduly eventful. After a childhood spent in Lausitz and Meissen he moved to Leipzig, Berlin, Hamburg and Wolfenbüttel.

He never held high office or enjoyed authority. He was merely employed here and there and in debt to varying degrees.

He married late in life, after six years of engagement, and this led to the only fateful event in his life. A year after their marriage Eva König, his wife, died in childbirth, and their son with her.

Yet wherever Lessing happened to be he invariably left the impression of being a tireless worker living the not very happy life of a full-time writer and intellectual.

He was, indeed, the first full-time writer in modern German history, and a critic through and through. There was no such thing as a topic too insignificant to serve the cause of his polemics.

He was opposed to ideological inflexibility and an impassioned advocate of the gentle, sympathetic approach to his subject.

"Humanity and meekness merit being recommended at every opportunity," he wrote, "and there can be no occasion so remote that we cannot, in our hearts, feel to be entirely natural and urgent."

This may sound gentle and conciliatory, but there can be no mistaking the latent polemical undertones based on Lessing's invariable scepticism.

He never felt able to repress the idea that what he thought was right would fall on stony ground in society. "If only I had never wanted mankind to be different," he lamented, adding that he would sooner have been born a bear than a human being.

Mistrust of the diluted Enlightenment spirit of the emerging bourgeoisie is,



Heinrich Heine (Photo: Historica)

moreover, a recurring feature of his dramatic output.

The much-vaunted bourgeois tragedy that Lessing is said to have invented as a dramatic genre had no other objective than to help deep-seated human needs to prevail over hard-hearted and narrow-minded views.

Emilia Galotti, for instance, tells her father: "I have blood, father, blood as young as any."

Fine productions of Lessing's plays are few and far between these days, but even now, 200 years after his death, audiences still keenly feel the sympathy with his characters he sought to inspire.

In appealing to the educational impetus of sympathy, or the "sympathetic feeling of humanity," as he called it, he was very much attuned to Aristotelian catharsis, the dramaturgical principle of his day.

But he boldly transformed the Greek purification of the emotions by vicarious experience, as defined in Aristotle's *Poetics*, into the Christian principle of love thy neighbour.

"Without love," he wrote, "we could not possibly feel sympathy towards the fate of someone else."

He ended up by portraying his characters as kindly and charmingly as one could possibly imagine. There can hardly

be a German play to rival his *Nathan der Weise* for its message of understanding and fraternity.

"What characters they are," wrote a lady of his acquaintance, "such a Jew, such a sultan, such a knight templar! If there were many more of them, who would not just as soon live on earth as in heaven!"

Yet it would be unfair to *Nathan* to reduce the message of the play to a mere edict of tolerance and peaceful religious coexistence. It would be as wrong to do so now as it was then.

Lessing was a pious man, full of the fear of God, but he well knew that the worst kind of unfreedom was the result of religious ideology politically consolidated.

Anyone who doubts for a moment that he was keenly aware of the danger of bigotry can but be recommended to read his *Anti-Goeze*.

The tale Lessing tells in *Nathan* is the concrete utopia of human reconciliation, a truly bold venture of which he alone was capable.

In the enlightened belief in human common sense, a secularised belief in reason, all religions and the differences between them are neutralised and offset against each other.

Nathan testifies and pays tribute to the realisation that God's creation was henceforth left to the free and ethical responsibility of mankind.

This may sound pathetic but it amounts to no more, and no less, than the Enlightenment maxim that the age of emancipation, of man's coming of age, had been proclaimed.

New deal for neglected poet-critic



Heinrich Heine (Photo: Historica)

Heinrich Heine, the German Romantic poet and social critic, died 125 years ago in self-imposed exile in Paris. So 1981 can hardly be claimed for him as a centenary or any other conventional anniversary year.

Yet seldom have commemorative ceremonies been so extensive as this time round, especially in Düsseldorf, the city where he was born.

The activities planned range from a monument that is to be unveiled to his memory to a platform debate featuring writers and politicians in honour of the city's finest son.

There is, of course, a good reason why Heine is being so fêted. It is that Germany has had a disturbed relationship with the poet who wrote such sensitive love lyrics and such trenchant political satire.

Heine's life story is a tale of struggle and denigration. The reception his oeuvre has been given is likewise a tale of Heine being either outlawed or glorified.

The Heine who immediately springs to mind is the writer of the *Lorelei* poem, which begins with the words: *Ich weiß nicht, was soll es bedeuten* (I'm sure I don't know what it means).

This evergreen Romantic ballad, the opening words of which everyone can readily recall, is followed by the usual hackneyed clichés in most people's minds.

But the cliché Heine, whether misunderstood or idolised, is not a true picture of the poet.

Misunderstandings were quick to arise. Karl Gutzkow, a near-contemporary whose literary claim to fame is tenuous

to say the least, compared Heine's poems with scented taffeta flowers.

It was a particularly inept comparison. Heine's poems have a touch of irony to put paid to any excess of emotion.

Early this century the Viennese critic Karl Kraus said of Heine that he had unlaced the corsetry of the German language to such an extent that any beginner could finger its bosom.

Inadvertently this was a tribute. Heine's major achievement, the way out from the German language of the pelhos of Classicism and the tyranny of Romanticism.

But it is only fair to add that Heine himself had no compunction in his verbal swing at his opponents.

He was proscribed artistically and outlawed socially and politically as a Jew of his era and as a Jew.

The climax in his lifetime came in 1844, when he was placed on the so-called list by the Prussian Minister of Police. The nadir thereafter came in Third Reich when the Nazis designated him an unpatriotic and atypical immortal lyricist to Tradition and Aesthetics.

So perhaps it is understandable that the forthcoming Heine celebration in Düsseldorf and elsewhere are being exaggerated as a belated bid to him justice.

Doing Heine justice must amount to more than the discreditable dispute as to whether Düsseldorf or Hamburg should be named after him.

It must also amount to more than the frank admission that Nazi racism outlawed the *Lorelei* to an unknown or that literary experts in both East and West have sought to claim for Heine ideological "oncs" as "indubitably free."

Justice can only be done objectively with the poetic and substance of Heine's legacy.

Heine's legacy is a truly bold venture of which he alone was capable.

The BV Lion invites you to West Germany and the friendly Freistaat



Gotthold Ephraim Lessing (Photo: Historica)

"Enlightenment has always, in most comprehensive meaning, thought, aimed at putting paid to fears and making him the master."

"But the fully enlightened man glows in the sign of triumphant day. The programme of the Enlightenment was to demystify the world. It sought to overthrow the old and outmoded means of knowledge."

Adorno and Horkheimer wrote words 35 years ago, yet they are as topical as ever, if not more so. Heine so far failed to take over as the master and not been deprived of his fear.

Even Lessing's free intellect has not been able to escape the clutches of eternal providence," he wrote, "but let me despair in you because you are so imperceptible."

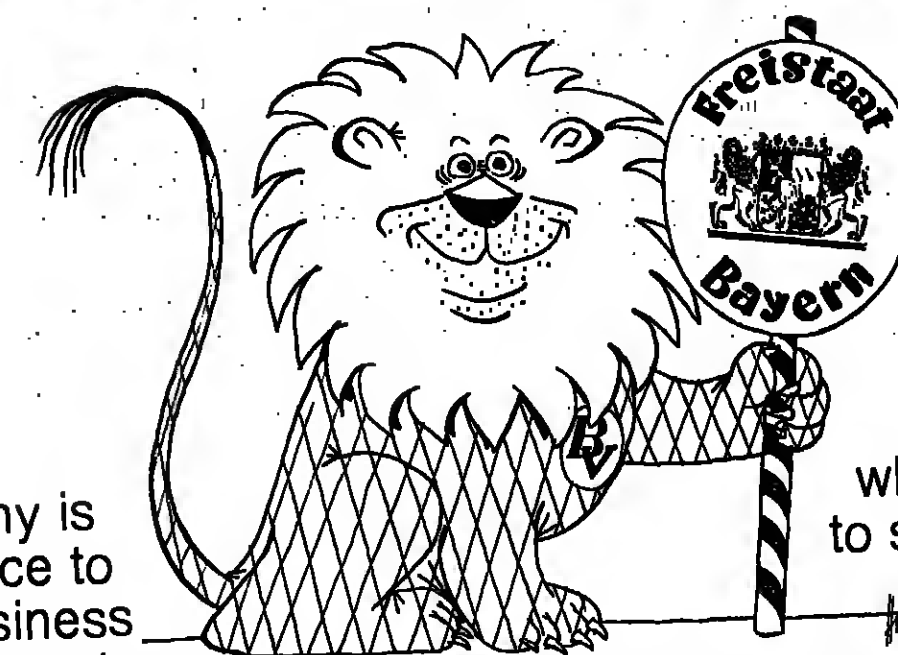
"Let me not despair in you as your steps should appear to me to be backward."

Sabina Kienke (Mannheimer Morgen, 14 February 1978)

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■ MODERN LIVING

Constitutional Court holds public hearing on the rights of illegitimate fathers

When Countess Franziska von Reventlow gave birth to an illegitimate child in 1897 and refused to name the father, a scandal erupted.

Her pose as a self-assured woman who wanted a child and did not give a hoot for the father was, however, much admired by the chic trendsetters of Schwabing.

The average "unmarried woman" was not so feted. She was regarded as a fallen woman and had to pay for her "lapse" throughout her life.

Her chances of marriage or professional success were non-existent. She had a child to bring up, leaving little time for anything else.

The consequences for the father were nothing like as serious. At worst, all he had to do was pay.

The German Civil Code of the time reflected this reality. The father of an illegitimate child was not a father at all for the purposes of the law.

The legal term for him was "hegeter" and he was not regarded as related to the child.

The child could not claim maintenance from the father but merely received part of the alimony which was paid to the mother and related to her income.

This did not change until 1970. The Bonn Basic Law promised equal treatment for legitimate and illegitimate children but it took a hefty nudge from the Federal Constitutional Court before politicians fulfilled this promise.

Since 1970 the position of illegitimate children (and of their mothers) has improved: these children are now regarded as related to their father, have full rights to maintenance and to inherit.

Indeed, they have one privilege in common with legitimate children: instead of waiting for their inheritance they can demand to have it paid out to them between the age of 21 and 27.

However, the father remained what he always had been: the paymaster, nothing else. He still has no legally-guaranteed right to take part in the upbringing of the child along with the mother.

And the mother decides if and when he can see his child. Only if personal contact with the father "serves the child's well-being" can a guardianship court rule against a mother's will and allow the father to visit the child.

This means that the father of an illegitimate child today is financially responsible for his child but has practically no rights.

Fathers have, however, now rediscovered the joys of fatherhood, witness the success of the Hollywood film *Kramer v. Kramer*, and so the law as it stands no longer corresponds to lived reality.

It is therefore small wonder that three fathers of illegitimate children have taken their case to the Supreme Constitutional Court insisting on more rights for "illegitimate" fathers.

The Constitutional Court judges devoted one of their rare public sessions lasting a week to the treatment of their case.

Heinz Günter Keusemann is the father of 12-year-old Florian and has been living with his mother for six years. They are not married. He is a hospital orderly and his wife is a nurse.

They each have a part-time post at Hamburg University Clinic.

They have arranged their working timetable on a one-month-on, one-month-off basis.

One month the mother looks after Florian, the next it is father's turn. As a result, Florian has far more contact with his father than many a "weekend father."

Despite this, the Civil Code will not allow Keusemann the formal legal right of custody for his son. This means that he cannot register his son in a kindergarten.

He cannot give formal approval for a vaccination or operation, cannot sign indentures and cannot become a member of the school parent-teacher association.

If Herr Keusemann and his common-law wife should split, Florian would remain with the mother and his father would have no legal rights.

It is possible that a judge in the guardianship court would assign him the right to visit the child regularly — possible, but only at the judge's discretion.

Both the other plaintiffs at the Federal Constitutional Court were asking for the right to see their children. Both paid maintenance regularly and both had vainly tried to establish regular contact with their children.

In each case, the mother had categorically refused to allow the child to have contact with the father and the youth authorities decided it would be best to leave it at that.

This means that the child's real father is totally excluded. He is expected to pay, and that is that. A mother would have to maltreat or seriously neglect her

child before she were treated in this way.

Herr Bahlmann, a senior civil servant in the Bonn Ministry of Justice, dutifully defended the law as it stands.

He said the mother was the "biological, emotional and personal" focal point in the child's life. The child's development could be disturbed by contact to the father, which could involve tensions with the mother which should be eliminated in the child's interest.

There was also a danger that joint custody by unmarried parents could lead to an erosion of the institution of marriage and an upgrading of non-marital relations.

Of course it is correct that in the great majority of cases the mother is the more important parent for the child. There are no absolute biological reasons for this, but it is an organic historical reality.

Yet more and more children today feel just as close to their fathers as they do to their mothers. If Florian's mother moved out and thus degraded the father to the role of paymaster and nothing else, their son's development would be endangered.

Contact with both parents is always the ideal solution if the well-being of the child is taken into account.

In many cases, mothers simply do not tell children who their father is. This means that the child, before it starts school, in puberty or when it comes of age, is confronted with the realisation that it is not who it always thought it was.

Exposing a child to this kind of shock is surely also a form of negligence.

Self-help for the lonely in Hanover

Aldo Sander, recently started a telephone self-help scheme in Hanover in which lonely and for the most part elderly people could phone up and get advice, help or sympathy.

As he says: "It's no use moaning about loneliness. You've got to do something about it."

Herr Sander got the idea from the local newspaper which printed the phone numbers of people willing to invite the singles and the solitary to their homes on Christmas Eve.

One of those with his name on the list was pensioner Sander: "The first day I had fourteen phone calls from people living on their own and only two glad to talk to someone on the phone."

I was very shaken to find how much loneliness there is amongst us. And I thought: why should this thing only happen once a year?"

The local newspaper published an advertisement by Sander to which 50 people replied within a few days, either offering or seeking help. They ranged from a 33-year-old secretary to an 86-year-old widow.

Sander said: "The response is so overwhelming that we already have four telephone link-ups in different parts of town each with about 12 people. And a

fifth link-up is on the way." The way this works is that every member phones a certain other member at a certain time every day. The best idea of the link-ups, says Sander, "is to make sure that everyone gets one call a day and that no one is left helpless and alone for days if anything happens."

As some people in this link-up are particularly in need of help, the scheme involves more than just phoning up and talking. There is, for example, a 73-year-old pensioner who is happy if someone goes walking with him now and again, or a 56-year-old widow with severe rheumatism who only leaves her room on the fourth floor every now and again to buy what she absolutely needs.

Otherwise she hardly ever dares go out, especially in winter, for fear of being and breaking something.

The telephone link-up scheme provides welcome help and relief to people here.

Countess Reventlow's attitude was really unrealistic. A child has to know that father?

The law no longer regards a natural child as the result of a biological mother. Begetting illegitimate children is no longer regarded as a secret and secretly admitted proof of prowess.

Should not the law then go further and give both parents the right to bring up or at least have contact with the child?

Has it the right to prevent the child from becoming the father's?

The Constitutional Court has published their ruling in March. It is clear in the court discussion that the judges at least have sympathy with the situation of the father.

It is therefore conceivable that upgrading of the illegitimate child will be followed by the upgrading of legitimate father.

This in turn would affect the general. Since the new parent law came into force on January 1, divorced parents have not been able to joint custody of their children. The parental law forces the judge to custody to one of the parents.

Even if parents believe that they keep the children out of their conflicts they have no chance. In many cases the situation would no longer be a laughing matter for those concerned.

Of course these fathers too have tested and they have found out from some guardianship court who referred the matter to the Constitutional Court.

The Berlin Supreme Court has ruled that the law as it stands is unconstitutional.

This means that in Berlin the parents can continue to hold joint custody of their children. But not in Germany.

Eva Marie von M...

(Die Zeit, 6 Februar 1981)

SPORT

King's Cup tennis title won in Hamburg

Rosenthal, president of the Deutscher Tennis-Bund, sounded a subdued note at Aletendorfer, the Hamburg indoor arena where West German men had just won the King's Cup.

Winning the King's Cup must naturally be noted a splendid sporting success, but it can hardly be called a really major victory.

Wolfgang Bungert, the DTB official in charge of the top-flight competition, did not wax unduly enthusiastic.

Winning the King's Cup comes as a surprise, of course, but I was pleased

Three points for a win

the celebrated sense of humour usually comes into its own when in the situation would no longer be a laughing matter for those concerned.

For instance, the following words told in connection with a club in the middle of the table by a caller who wanted to know the next home game is: "When you get time to spare, then?" the secretary asks.

There are not all that has occurred to the mother country of association football on the subject of soccer that used to be.

The proposal narrowly approved by the Football League even go so far as to make Sunday soccer and put paid to Day observance.

The chairman have given this their blessing, so before long there will be a day not only of church singing but also of soccer turnstiles.

Of course, it is strictly a British innovation. But another innovation adopted by the Football League is likely to find its way to the Continent before long.

The proposal, officially endorsed on 10 February, to make a league game count three points rather than two.

The new ruling will apply from next September, starting this autumn.

The Football League, feeling the pinch financially, hopes this change will encourage teams to show a little more spirit, playing to win and supporting a diet of attacking soccer to get them back in the stands and terraces as they belong.

The 92 League clubs in Division One will, it is hoped, be induced by extra-point incentive to run a few risks.

It is hoped, however, that the fans will prove warranted and the fans will, it is hoped, be induced by extra-point incentive to run a few risks.

There is no need to be overhasty. The need not follow suit until the experiment has proved a success.

Every games club manager may be tempted of conceding the extra point but will be keen to win that they will instruct playing staff to play more defensive football than they have.

Ludwig Datart
Frankfurter Rundschau, 11 February 1981

acknowledged by all. Admittedly Zipf, 18, was not at his strongest in Hamburg. Will this men's doubles combination stay together long enough to fare as well as, say, Jürgen Fassbender and Hans-Jürgen Pohmann? Much will depend on the DTB, Chief coach Richard Schönborn was already considering other pairings of top-flight German men for the doubles in Hamburg, it was learnt.

Ursula Diasegi
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 9 February 1981)



Ursula Komizuru (Photo: Horst Müller)

Table tennis team thrash the Russians 6-1

Hamburger Abendblatt

Ralf Wosik, 22, was largely responsible for West Germany's 6-1 table tennis thrashing of the Soviet Union in Hamburg. He won all four of his matches, two singles, the men's doubles and the mixed doubles.

Stanislav Gomoltskov, the Soviet chief coach was most annoyed. "We spent an entire week training six hours a day in Moscow," he said, "and it proved no use at all."

The German coach Istvan Korpa, 35, from Yugoslavia, had spotted Wosik at the western regional championships a week beforehand and beckoned him for the singles.

"Ralf now trains twice a day and has improved his backhand topspin enormously. He has gained in self-confidence and virtually decided today's outcome singlehandedly."

Former International Eberhard Schöler felt Ralf was playing consistently well, which Wilfried Lieck, 35, a Dortmund teacher and end of the men's reserve, could hardly disagree.

When the German team were leading 3-0 Lieck whispered to women's reserve Kirsten Krüger: "You can tell immediately when we're not out there."



King's Cup indoor tennis title winners Klaus Eberhard, Christoph Zipf, Uli Pinner, Ralf Gehring and coach Günter Bosch (Photo: Wilfried Wille)

They had both played in the team that was thrashed 7-0 by Yugoslavia. But Lieck was the only player to miss the post-match party. He had to be home and off to school at 8am the next morning.

Ursula Komizuru, 149m (4ft 10 1/2 in), beat European champion Valentina Popova in two straight sets and was given a good hand.

West German champion Peter Stellwag lost his second match. It was the last of the evening and the only one the home team lost. The first he won convincingly but with the team leading 6-0 he evidently felt unable to pull out all the stops.

Hans-Eckart Jaeger
(Hamburger Abendblatt, 13 February 1981)

No cuts in government spending

Sports expenditure in the 1981 budget was the main item on the agenda of the 11 February meeting of the Bundestag sports committee in Bonn.

It was clear that even in a year of no-holds-barred calls for spending cuts serious inroads into funds earmarked for sport were not to be expected.

Sports spending by the Bonn government has averaged DM250m a year for many years and few if any changes are expected in the overall total.

Sports associations are ill at ease and in some cases disgusted at the way in which the Interior Ministry has perched from DM51m to DM49.3m its proposed outlay on central government promotion of top-flight sport.

At first glance the cut hardly seems to be in keeping with political promises to expect no more sacrifices from top-flight sport after last year's Olympic boycott.

Yet since last year's figure included a special Olympic allocation of DM5.2m which, as a one-off package, could hardly be expected to recur this year the picture may look somewhat different.

The committee is certainly going to summons the Interior Minister in person to see for itself whether sports aid is truly as generous as Ministry officials in Bonn invariably claim it is.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 13 February 1981)